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Message Text

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41
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 VO-03 SCA-01 INR-05 CIAE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 AF-04 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 RSC-01

/045 W
---------- 058068
O R 131940Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8623

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 2890

LIMDIS NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: ASEC, CVIS, PINR, UR
SUBJ: SOVIET EMBOFF INQUIRES ABOUT U.S. VISA PROCEDURES
FOR SOVIET DIPLOMATS

1. SOVIET EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY RAYMOND
M E N O V C H T C H I K V TELEPHONED VICE CONSUL ROBERT J.
KOTT ON/ABOUT DECEMBER 12 TO ASK FOR APPOINTMENT TO MAKE
"COURTESY CALL", ALTHOUGH M E N O V C H T C H I K O V HAS BEEN
IN LOME ABOUT TWO YEARS AND KOTT HAS BEEN HERE SINCE JULY 1974,
AND MADE CALL AFTER ARRIVAL ON EVGUENI SEMENOV, SOVIET THIRD
SECRETARY.

2. MENOVCHTICHIKOV CALLED ON KOTT TODAY (DEC 13) AS SCHEDULED,
INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS "POLITICAL" OFFICER, AND ASKED 1) HOW
MANY AMERICANO ARE THERE IN TOGO AND WHAT THEY ARE DOING,
AND 2) ABOUT U.S. VISA PROCEDURES, ESPECIALLY FOR SOVIET DIPLOMATIC
PERSONNEL. KOTT ANSWERED FIRST QUESTION FACTUALLY AND ANSWERED
SECOND BY EXPLAINING THAT VISA FOR SOVIET DIPLOMAT FOR OFFICIAL
DIPLOMATIC VISIT WAS NOT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. MENOVCHTCHIKOV
THEN ASKED "WHAT IF" SOVIET DIPLOMAT WANTED TO MAKE UNOFFICIAL
VISIT AND WAS TOLD FORMALITIES IN SUCH CASE NOT MUCH MORE
DEMANDING. CONVERSATION THEN SWITCHED TO GENERAL DISCUSSION
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OF LIFE IN U.S. WITH VISITOR SHOWING SURPRISE AT FREEDOM OF

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MOVEMENT OF CITIZENS AND NON-CITIZENS INSIDE COUNTRY.

3. MENOVCHTCHIKOV IS PORTLY, RUDDY-COMPLEXION, ABOUT 5'10"",
IN LATE FORTIES. SEEMED RELAXED DURING CONVERSATION, WHICH WAS
IN FRENCH AS HE SAID HE DID NOT SPEAK ENGLISH.
RAWLS

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NNN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: ASEC, CVIS, PINR, UR, (MENOVCHTCHIKOV, RAYMOND)
To: COTONOU
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